

of the independent contractor hired by the Board of Supervisors of Elections to set up the machines properly.

Because of the closeness of the election for this nomination and of the fact that the name of the runner-up was one of those omitted, the Honorable Meyer M. Cardin decreed that a new election for that nomination would have to be held in the eight affected precincts.

The Maryland Election Code on this point is vague and contradictory and there is little helpful case law.

The problem should be studied in order that recommendations may be made to the 1972 General Assembly for enactment of such amendments to the election laws as necessary to eliminate further possibility that at some time an election could not be held as required; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the appropriate committee or subcommittee of the Legislative Council assess the desirability of adopting statutory language to make it clear that a court of competent jurisdiction has the authority, in a proper proceeding, to declare null and void all or part of a primary or general election when fraud or negligence of election officials or other third parties has created a situation which could have affected the outcome of an election race or races.

Approved May 17, 1971.

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No. 53

(Senate Joint Resolution 71)

Senate Joint Resolution to establish the Joint Committee on Ethics and rules of ethics for the members of the General Assembly of Maryland.

WHEREAS, It is essential to the proper operation of a democratic government that its legislators be independent and impartial, that public office not be used for private gain other than compensation provided by law, and that there be public confidence in the integrity of the members of the General Assembly. It is also essential to the proper operation of government that those best qualified be encouraged to serve the government and that safeguards against conflicts of interest be designed so as not to unnecessarily or unreasonably impede the entry into, or retention by the government of those best qualified to serve it and the people; and

WHEREAS, The office of the Attorney General issued an opinion which stated that the rules of one body of the Legislature would not bind members of that body when the General Assembly was not convened.

For the above reasons, the General Assembly wishes to establish a joint committee on ethics and adopt the following rules by this Joint Resolution to be in full force and effect during the entire terms of those members now seated.